

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT TAXONOMISTS

December 5, 1960

Dr. Robert Thorne
23 Mortlake Road
Kew, Richmond, Surrey
England

Dear Bob:

It was good to hear from you and many thanks for the seed of the Hydrocotyle which I have shared with Lincoln. Both of us have ~~2-3~~ growing projects on and some times he has better luck than we do - the reverse works too. I hope the other seed turns up eventually.

I am sorry that you feel you cannot serve as one of the ASPT representatives to the AAAS but I can appreciate your reasons for turning down the job. There are not many of us who attend the Christmas meetings. I shall see what we can do about a substitute.

Your life sounds most exciting and likely to continue that way with a trip to Hawaii in the offing. I am expecting some very interesting papers on the classification of angiosperms and I envy you the time to work on the subject.

Peru and Ecuador were wonderful and I am hoping I may have an opportunity to return. After two summers in the Amazon Basin I am beginning to feel a little more at home with the flora and if I can find time to work up my collections it will be even better. I took my oldest daughter with me last summer and she is now all set to do her field work for her doctorate in Peru. We had no time in the high Andes other than driving across which last year we did largely at night but this year we managed the round trip by day. June and July are not good times in the high Andes since everything is dormant. I did see Azorella but was not far enough south for the really grand cushion-formers. Last year I managed a collecting trip to the lomas north of Lima (coastal desert hills) which have a number of endemics - even Umbelliferae. And this year I had a bit of collecting time along the road on Carpish north of Huanuco - a cloud forest montana flora also noted for endemics. And I got two of the very rare local Hydrocotyles. These two trips were as botanist with the Department of Pharmacology in our Medical School. They are working on the medicinal plants of Peru - particularly some of the reputed hallucinogenic things - and I am being forced into a knowledge of the Menispermaceae and Sapindaceae. I have quite a large collection of the former which I can do nothing more with until the NY Botanical Garden herbarium gets out into circulation. Then I hope to take a trip to New York to work over my collections. It has been a marvelous opportunity for me to get into the tropical rain forest and I could easily move into it permanently.

Best wishes,

Mildred E. Mathias

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